

The Rockefeller Foundation

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OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

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April 21, 1969

Dear Professor Lederberg:

This will acknowledge your letter suggesting that the Foundation organize a "brain-storming" conference on some of the recent advances and needs for further research in some of the new areas that are being opened up in plant science that might have implications in plant breeding.

It is an interesting coincidence that your letter should arrive just as we were in the final stages of developing a conference somewhat along the lines which you have suggested. In early January we sponsored a two-day meeting of some of the leading U. S. plant geneticists and cytogeneticists on the general topic of broad crosses and their potential usefulness in plant breeding. More recently, we invited a very small number of U. S. scientists to visit with us about the need for and potential contributions of a conference in the general area of tissue culture including its usefulness in accomplishing somatic cell fusion, maintaining of haploid, diploid and polyploid cell lines, culturing the embryos of broad crosses, which would under normal conditions be inviable, the multiplication from single cell isolates of a particular genotype, etc.

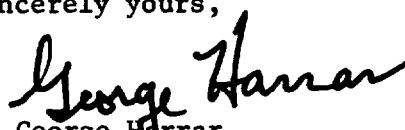
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We have just invited fifteen leading scientists who are working in this field in the United States, Canada, the U.K., France, Italy, Germany, Japan, and some other countries to attend a three-day conference sponsored by the Foundation on this subject. Such a conference will at least have the merits of enabling these people who otherwise have no opportunity to get together to exchange information and new ideas on needs and opportunities for research in this field. The conference might also have the effect of stimulating further interest and research in the area if it is determined that such needs exist.

We appreciate your suggestions and are pleased to be able to report that we are already moving forward in exploring at least part of the field which you suggest.

Sincerely yours,

Professor Joshua Lederberg
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J. George Harrar